

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

REF: ATHENS 1166

1. FOLLOWING ARE PRELIMINARY WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON DRAFT COMMUNIQUE TEXT (REFTEL), WHICH US DELEGATION HAS PREPARED AND PASSED INFORMALLY TO GREEKS.

2. DESIRABILITY FROM OUR STANDPOINT OF ISSUING JOINT COMMUNIQUE DEPENDS ALMOST ENTIRELY ON GREEK WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE IN SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 2 CONFIRMING THAT US FACILITIES IN GREECE SERVE THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND ENHANCE THEIR COMMON DEFENSE. WITHOUT THIS KIND OF LANGUAGE, FINAL COMMUNIQUE TEXT SERVES NO BASIC US INTEREST.

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3. WE WILL REQUIRE SOMEWHAT MORE GENERAL, LOW-KEY TREATMENT OF COMMAND AND CONTROL ISSUE. THIS WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTEL, WHICH WILL EXPLAIN WHY AT MINIMUM POINTS 3(C) AND 3(D) OF DRAFT COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE WILL REQUIRE DELETION.

4. PARA 4 SHOULD BE RE-WORDED AS FOLLOWS IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE INFERENCE THAT FORMER SOFA WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH NATO SOFA AND PRACTICE ELSEWHERE. QUOTE. NEW ARRANGEMENTS RESPECTING THE LEGAL STATUS OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN GREECE UNDER THE NATO SOFA WERE AGREED TO BY BOTH SIDES, AND A DETAILED AGREEMENT EMBODYING THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAS BEEN SIGNED AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY." DELETE SECOND SENTENCE.

5. WE WOULD ASK TO HAVE THE SENTENCE WHICH REFERS TO POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE MILITARY FACILITIES AGREEMENT DELETED. ITS MENTION WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE A LINE OF INQUIRY WHICH COULD EMBARRASS THE GREEKS, BECAUSE THE RETURN OF FORCES TO NATO COMMAND IS THE CONDITION PRECEDENT TO THE COMPLETION OF AN OVERALL FACILITIES AGREEMENT.

6. OTHER PORTIONS OF THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE MAY HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED DEPENDING UPON RESULTS OF MEETINGS STILL TO BE HELD DURING THIRD ROUND IN ATHENS, AND FOLLOWING RECEIPT BY DEPARTMENT OF GREEK COMMENTS ON US DRAFT LANGUAGE.

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